

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 1, please make the following amendments to the title:

~~System~~ Systems and ~~Method~~ Methods for Providing Internet Accessible Registries

On page 1, line 2, please insert the following paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial number 10/273,326, filed October 15, 2002 which is a continuation of United States Patent 6,493,742, which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

On page 2, amend the paragraph starting on line 1 and ending on line 11 as follows:

Retailers that provide registration services over the Internet typically restrict the content of their registry databases to products offered by the individual retailer or, at best, to those of a highly limited number of retail partners. Thus, registrants to major events such as weddings must still register with several different retailers in order to attempt adequate coverage. Often registrants are not satisfied with the scope of their selections even after several different retailer-specific ~~retail-specific~~ registries have been made. However, the typical registrant does not create more retailer-specific ~~retail-specific~~ registries because of the burden it places on guests and because of the high degree of maintenance that is required by the registrant to maintain such a large number of registries. Further, existing retailer-specific ~~retail-specific~~ registries do not offer registrants ~~registrant with~~ the option of registering unconventional items such as maid service, cooking lessons, or camping gear.

On page 2, amend the paragraph starting on line 12 and ending on line 25 as follows:

Even with the introduction of Internet accessible registries, the practice of restricting registry database content produces the unsatisfactory result that guests attempting to buy gifts for registrants must search multiple retailer-specific ~~retail-specific~~ web sites. Such inconvenience is magnified when the guest does not even know where the registrant is registered. Several ~~retail-independent~~ retailer-independent web sites have attempted to address the shortcomings of retailer-specific ~~retail-specific~~ Internet accessible registry databases. These web sites allow a registrant to build a gift registry that is not retailer-

specific retail-specific. However, while functional, such web sites are unsatisfactory in practice. The registrant must manually enter large amounts of information, such as a product description, price, and possible places that the registry item can be found. Further, there is no method by which a retailer can update the registry when a purchase is made. Rather, such web sites typically require that the guest update the registrants' web page as gifts are purchased. This has the disadvantage that every guest must use the registrant's web page and diligently update it. Often, this is simply not possible because some of the guests do not have access to the Internet.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 33, and ending on page 3, line 3, as follows:

The present invention provides a system and method for aggregating registries. The system and method allows registrants to collect all registries, both custom and retailer-specific retail-specific, in a single web site. The present invention allows registrants to expand the number of event types for which they create registries. Using the features of the present invention, registries for even the most common events, such as birthdays, are created by registrants and are easily accessed by relatives and friends over the Internet.

On page 3, amend the paragraph starting on line 4 and ending on line 13, as follows:

In a preferred embodiment, a query from a registrant, which includes an identifier and a search criteria, is received by a server. The identifier is used to select a particular registry database from a plurality of registry databases. The search criteria is used to identify matching registries in the selected registry database. In response to a selection of one of the matching registries, a user identification that uniquely identifies the registrant is associated with the selected registry. As the registrant selects additional registries, an aggregated registry forms that is, composed of each registry that has been chosen, ~~forms~~. Because selected registries are associated with a user identification rather than transferred to a secondary registry database, an aggregated registry typically spans multiple primary registry databases.

On page 4, amend the paragraph starting on line 10 and ending on line 14 as follows:

In yet another preferred embodiment, registry database providers may access their registry databases from a server to ~~review-update~~ review/update registry databases with ~~in-store~~ in-store activity, revise on-line catalogs of products, and review registry orders. However, even when registry database providers update their respective registry databases, aggregated registries, *i.e.* the associations between user identifications and registries, are preserved.

On page 8, amend the paragraph starting on line 15 and ending on line 27 as follows:

Profile database 126 (FIG. 1) is used to store user profiles. A user profile may include information about a registrant (registrant profile) and/or a guest (guest profile). As illustrated in FIG. 3, each registrant profile 300 includes a unique general user identifier 302. The general user identifier 302 provides a method for identifying, independent of the actual name of the registrant, a particular registrant. A registrant profile 300 also includes a password 304. When a registrant logs into system 100, in a preferred embodiment, the registrant is prompted to provide password 304. It will be appreciated that the general user identifier 302 may serve as a password in some embodiments of the present invention and that, in such embodiments, registrant profile 300 does not have a separate password field 304. As depicted in the exemplary profile of FIG. 3, registrant profile 300 may include a user name 306, an address 308, a telephone number 310, and an E-mail address 312. The registrant profile may also include demographic information 314 such as a an age and/or household income.

On page 9, amend the paragraph starting on line 5 and ending on line 9 as follows:

Preferably, each guest profile includes the information necessary to support a single click purchase by the guest. Such information typically includes credit card and/or debit card information, a billing address and a reference phone number or E-mail address. The guest profile is typically generated by prompts made by system 100 the first time a guest logs in to the system.

Amend the paragraph starting on line 33 of page 9 and ending on line 4 of page 10 as follows:

In processing step 408, the search criteria specified in processing step 406 ~~is~~ are used to search the specified registry database 120 for matching registries 122. Next, in processing step 410, the registrant selects a matching registry 122. In processing step 412, the general user identifier 302 of the registrant is assigned to the registry 122 selected in processing step 410. Preferably, the assignment of a general user identifier 302 to a registry 122 is made by populating a specific field in registry 122, which is reserved for general user identifiers, with general user identifier 302.

On page 14, amend the paragraph starting on line 3 and ending on line 7 as follows:

Although not shown in FIG. 10, it will be appreciated that it is possible for the registrant to update registrant profile 300 while logged into system 100. Such, an update may ~~includes~~ include personal contact information, updating a personal web page, changing an event date, specifying a new event type, updating a credit card number, modifying a guest list or E-mail address, or revising a broadcast message to be sent to select guests.